

PATHWAYS TO PEACE

On this day of fasting and prayer, Tuesday, November 11, 2014, let us place our efforts for peace and justice before our God. Let us remember daily our call to be a voice for the poor. Let us stand in the tradition of Jesus, Gandhi, Dorothy Day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and all those who have gone before us in the way of nonviolence.

Prayer to Close the School of the Americas

Song: *We are Called*, by David Haas or any appropriate song or music

Opening Prayer: We gather in prayer in union with all people of good will throughout the world. We need God's wisdom and love to be peacemakers in our times.

All:
Great lover of the Earth, Lover of all peoples, be with us at this time of prayer. We gather asking that your gift of justice and love may be given and shared. We ask that your gift of wisdom be with all of us as we ponder; pray, and act to discontinue the injustices connected with the School of the Americas.

Reader:

The US Army School of Americas (SOA), based in Fort Benning, Georgia, trains Latin American soldiers in combat, counter-insurgency, and counter-narcotics. Graduates of the SOA are responsible for some of the worst human rights abuses in Latin America that includes the El Mozote Massacre of 900 civilians. The UN Truth Commission Report on El Salvador cited over 60 Salvadoran officers – 2/3 of them were alumni of the School of the Americas – who participated in that country's brutal murders of Archbishop Romero, the six Jesuits and housekeepers, and the four US church women.

Silent Reflection

Petitions Response: O God, we need your wisdom and love.

Leader: *O God, you are the source of all help and hope, of all wisdom and love.
Accept these our prayers.*

For the hundreds of thousands of people all over Latin America who have been tortured, raped, assassinated, disappeared, massacred, or forced into refuge by those trained at the School of the Americas. We cry...

For the memory our sisters and brothers who first lived on these lands. We pray for an end to the SOA violence and arrogance that continues to ravage indigenous peoples. We cry...

For conversion of heart and commitment to actions that will bring about the closing of the U.S. Army School of the Americas. We cry...

For ways of working together to create a world where people of all religions, races, ethnicities, genders, abilities, classes, and beliefs will live together free from fear and oppression. We cry...

Closing Prayer: O loving God, show us the way of hope. Enkindle the flame of faith and love. Help us to respond as your people in integrity and with peace. Amen.
